

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Formal drawings, which replace the previously filed informal drawings, are enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

The Election of Species Requirement dated December 30, 2003, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 36-52 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Election of Species Requirement

The Office has identified the following species of invention:

- 1) spacers that are electrically isolated from internal circuitry of a semiconductor device upon which they are positioned; and
- 2) spacers that communicate with a ground or reference voltage plane of a semiconductor device.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species 2.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-28, and 30-35 reads on Species 2, with claim 1 being the most generic of these claims.

It is also respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-8, 10, 12-16, 18-23, 27, 28, and 30-35 is generic to both Species 1 and Species 2.

An early and favorable action on the merits of claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-28, and 30-35 is respectfully requested.

Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-referenced application on August 24, 2001, but that an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied that Information Disclosure Statement has not yet been returned to the undersigned attorney. It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statement and listed on the Form PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing such consideration be returned to the undersigned attorney.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-28, and 30-35 be considered on the merits at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", written in a cursive style.

Brick G. Power
Registration No. 38,581
Attorney for Applicant
TRASKBRITT, PC
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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BGP/dlm:djp

Attachment: Formal Drawings (3 sheets, 18 figures)

Document in ProLaw